

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 20, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 158

Introduced by Assembly Member Yamada

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cook, DeVore, Huber, Lieu, V. Manuel Perez, Salas, and ~~Saldana~~ Saldana, Adams, Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Block, Blumenfield, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Coto, Davis, De Leon, Emmerson, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Fuller, Furutani, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Hagman, Hall, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Nestande, Niello, Nielsen, Portantino, Ruskin, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, and Tran)

(Coauthors: Senators Cedillo, Wiggins, and Wolk)

April 14, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 158—Relative to Women Veterans Recognition Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 158, as amended, Yamada. Women Veterans Recognition Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of May to be Women Veterans Recognition Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The August 2009 California Research Bureau
2 report, “California’s Women Veterans: The Challenges and Needs
3 of Those Who Served” made all of the following findings; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee founded the Army
5 Nurse Corps, which the Army Reorganization Act of 1901
6 permanently established. In 1908, the pioneering team of 20 Navy
7 nurses became “the Sacred Twenty.” The Army and Navy did not
8 commission these women as officers. Nevertheless, that act marked
9 the first time a reserve corps of the Army and Navy included
10 women; and

11 WHEREAS, Women entered the Armed Forces when Congress
12 established the Women’s Army Corps in 1942 and Women in the
13 Air Force in 1943, which commissioned women as officers and
14 paid women the same benefits as men including pay and protection;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, approximately 7,000
17 women were deployed as nurses, medical personnel, and as general
18 support personnel; and

19 WHEREAS, During the Persian Gulf War, the federal
20 government deployed approximately 41,000 women who flew
21 combat aircraft, operated missile placements, served on ships,
22 drove in convoys, and performed other roles in a combat
23 environment; and

24 WHEREAS, In the early 1990s, Congress and the Department
25 of Defense lifted restrictions that prevented women from training
26 for and working in over 260,000 military occupational specialties;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Women make up 13 percent of the troops deployed
29 during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom
30 which is the largest wartime deployment of women in history; and

31 WHEREAS, Eight percent, or nearly 167,000 veterans living
32 in California, are women, which is the greatest proportion of female
33 veterans in the country; and

34 WHEREAS, More than 200,000 women are serving in the
35 military as truckdrivers, convoy security, gunners, medics, military
36 police, and helicopter pilots as well as working in intelligence,
37 maintenance, communications, and other logistical and operational
38 support areas; and

1 WHEREAS, There are 3,326 women serving in the California
2 National Guard, which is 15 percent of the total number of men
3 and women enlisted; and

4 WHEREAS, Women veterans reluctantly seek care in Veterans
5 Affairs hospitals, a mostly male patient environment where
6 physicians do not practice health care specific to women; and

7 WHEREAS, Eighty percent of servicewomen have reported
8 being sexually harassed or have suffered military sexual trauma
9 (MST), which the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,
10 defines as “sexual harassment that is threatening in character or
11 physical assault of a sexual nature that occurred while the victim
12 was in the military, regardless of geographic location of the trauma,
13 gender of victim, or the relationship to the perpetrator”; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2007, 46,000 women veterans reported MST.
15 Although one in three women was sexually assaulted while in the
16 military, women underreport MST and few cases get to military
17 court, in part, because survivors must continue to live and work
18 with their perpetrators. Some women veterans were assaulted by
19 their superior officers; and

20 WHEREAS, Women veterans who have suffered MST are nine
21 times more likely to develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
22 (PTSD) than women without sexual assault histories; and

23 WHEREAS, Women returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom
24 and Operation Enduring Freedom are at a higher risk for depression
25 than men. They are also more likely than male veterans to have
26 experienced serious psychological distress; and

27 WHEREAS, Women veterans are four times more likely than
28 their civilian counterparts to become homeless. Many veterans’
29 homeless shelters do not accept women veterans with children
30 even though this demography is growing; and

31 WHEREAS, California’s women veterans need recognition and
32 respect for their military service; and

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
34 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
35 month of May to be Women Veterans Recognition Month; and be
36 it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
38 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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